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THE
POLISH PARTITION,
ILLUSTRATED;
IN
SEVEN DRAMATICK DIALOGUES.

THE

POLISH PARTITION

ILLUSTRATED

IN

AN ALPHABETIC DICTIONARY

THE
POLISH PARTITION,
ILLUSTRATED;
IN
SEVEN DRAMATICK DIALOGUES,
OR,
CONVERSATION PIECES,
BETWEEN
REMARKABLE PERSONAGES,
PUBLISHED FROM THE
MOUTHS AND ACTIONS
OF THE
INTERLOCUTORS.

BY GOTTLIEB PANSMOUZER,
THE BARON'S NEPHEW.

Cantabit vacuus coram latrone viator. JUVEN.

Trojanas ut opes et lamentabile regnum

Eruerint Danaï.

VIRGIL.

L O N D O N:

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ADVERTISEMENT.

AS the Vth Dialogue contains facts that seem improbable, the Editor addressed himself to Serjeant *Whiskerfeldt*, for his testimony in behalf of the truth of his narration. The Serjeant, who, by profession as well as character, is a *grave* man, was offended at seeing the particulars of his Embassy set in such a ridiculous light; considering little that such things are not susceptible of any other aspect, and that the very plainest historian (even N. Tindal) would appear a joker if he related them as they are. The Serjeant moreover complained of exaggeration—but—Mr. *Pansmouzer* gave a satisfactory answer to this objection, by observing that he only mingled an epick spirit of action with his narration, and so on—Upon which *Whiskerfeldt*, who at bottom did not think that he appeared to disadvantage in the scene, shrugged up his shoulders, took out his match and flint, struck fire and lighted his pipe and went off whiffing and smiling.

INTERLOCUTORS

IN THE FOLLOWING DIALOGUES.

The E-PR-SS Q-----N of H-----RY.

The E-PR-SS of R-SS-A.

The K--G of P--SS-A.

EPHRAIM, Baron of Joppa.

SERJEANT WHISKERFELDT, the Am-
bassador.

A PHILOSOPHER (a modern one)

A GEOGRAPHER.

The K--G of P-L-ND, now and then.

THE
POLISH PARTITION.

DIALOGUE I.

INTERLOCUTORS.

The EMPRESS QUEEN of H--G--Y.

The EMPRESS of R-SS-A.

The KING of P--SS-A.

KING OF P--SS-A.

PR A Y, ladies, who will draw up the *manifesto* that must proclaim to the world the *apparent* equity of this *real* violation of (what is vulgarly called) common justice?

The composition of this same *manifesto*, (nay—pray don't laugh, madam—for the matter is serious) will be more difficult

B

than

than you seem to imagine. It will require invention, an intense operation of that political chemistry that can melt down contradictions, and a dexterous application of that optical magic, that can make illusion pass for reality and put upon truth a garment of many changing colours.

I do not think the world (improved as it may be in this golden age of philosophy and freedom) so far advanced towards perfection, as to bear with any tolerable degree of patience, a plain and undisguised avowal of the principles upon which we act, and of the objects we have in view. For tho' the old phantom Virtue be well nigh annihilated among people of our rank, yet the spirit of *prejudice* and *system* has yet some hold on the minds of men, and the habit of paying to the antiquated goddess, who has long ago lost her scales and her weights, some feeble marks of external respect, is not, as yet, entirely worn out. We must therefore speak *dubiously* even after we shall have begun to act *plainly*: we must even make use of the old terms of art, *justice, liberty,*

berty, humanity and patriotism, tho' the flimsy beings they represent, must act only as *mutes* in the tragi-comedy we are about to exhibit. To speak without a figure, the composition of our manifesto will require uncommon talents, and I scarcely know where we shall find a pen properly qualified for such a task let me see—

KING OF P - L - - D. [*Undiscovered.*]

Lord ! what are this man and these women about ? How came they together ? this is surely a very odd coalition—It is such a mixture of sympathy and antipathy, as would excite astonishment, if we were not come to a period, which is likely to extinguish the passion of *wonder* in the mind of man—and then they look so eager and speak as if they were going to rob—But let me hear them.

EMPRESS OF R - SS - A.

How can your majesty be at a loss for maxims to colour, and pens to defend our claims and our proceedings ? Is not Berlin

the centre of the *New* Philosophy, and have you not *Sophists* in your academy, who can *write* mankind out of their principles while we are *fighting* them into our interests ?

KING OF P - L - - D. [*Undiscovered.*]

Is it Catherine that speaks this *Jezebel* language ! It is, as I live—'tis she.

KING OF P - - S S - A.

Ah ! madam, Berlin is no more what it was a few years ago—all my *Wits* and *Philosophers* are gone ! mortality, famine, and the sword have carried off some, and, others finding their health and spirits affected by the air of the court are gone to other countries. MAUPERTUIS is no more at the head of the academy, otherwise he might have been of use to us on the present occasion. He was an excellent hand at a paradox, and by the farther discoveries he was making concerning the *nature* of the
foul,

soul, by the means of *opium*,* he might have invented for us a *new* system of right and wrong. But the poor devil fell sick at Bafil, and died there a christian, that is to say (as I hope you understand me) *he died in his night-cap*. — WOLF, (who in the sphere of his voluminous philosophy comprehended *much*, but explained *little*, who linked together in a geometrical string the sublimest dictates of moral obligation, with the lowest and most disgusting functions of nature,†) would have evacuated in a few days, a series of fifty thousand propositions to persuade the POLES that *whatever is, is right*—I made this bulky philosopher a baron—but he is now no more! he is become a *monade*.§

* This folly of Maupertuis may be seen in several places in his works, and he really proposed the experiment on the soul by opium, to the academy of Berlin.

† See his chapter *de officio* and *modo exonerandi ventrem* in his book entitled *Oeconomica*.

§ The *monades*, in the Leibnitian and Wolfian philosophy, are the elements of all beings.

EMPRESS Q---N, [*to the empress of R-ss-a.*

I don't know what the man is talking about—Pray, sister of Muscovy, what is a *monade*?

EMPRESS OF R - SS - A.

I really don't know, sister, we have no such thing at Petersburg that I know of.

KING OF P - SS - - A.

That I believe—they are too thin for your climate—besides, as they are neither *matter* nor *spirit*, have no *bulk*, nor even *parts*, I don't imagine either of you care much for them.

—But let us not dwell on this trifling incident—who shall we find to compose our manifesto?

EMPRESS OF R - SS - A.

Had you the marquis D'ARGENS or count ALGAROTTI they

KING OF P - - SS - A.

Alas! they are both *annihilated*, or,
which

which is the same thing, have rejoined the *universal substance*. Fame has given their ashes some blasts of her trumpet—but what do their ashes care for fame and her trumpet?—Let us, however, quit this reflection—it is not very pleasing at a certain time of life . . . but were these two eminent wits yet in existence, they would not serve us effectually; for they had both some old fashioned notions of honour, probity and decorum, that would have rendered their eloquence and sophistry awkward in the present cause.—You forget, madam—and you too, madam, are endeavouring to forget that our enterprize is of a nature entirely *new*—that nothing of the kind has ever been attempted in these parts of the world, among civilized nations, or princes supposed to be such,—that ALEXANDER invading the dominions of PORUS, and POMPEY and CÆSAR dethroning the Asiatic monarchs covered their depredations with a certain air of dignity which ours have not. They did not prepare for the success of their inroads by professions of friend-

friendship, by the tender of good offices designed to ensnare, nor by solemn treaties, containing the abjuration of those designs which they were upon the point of executing. And yet ALEXANDER, POMPEY and CÆSAR have been looked upon, in all ages, as the plagues and scourges of mankind.

Our cause therefore cannot be defended upon the *old principles* of equity and justice, which run thro' the writings of ALGAROTTI, who, in other respects, was a man of taste, knowledge and merit.

EMPRESS OF R - SS - A.

VOLTAIRE is yet on the stage——

KING OF P - - SS - A.

Yes, but he will not answer our purpose ; for if he should write our *manifesto*, as he has written your Russian History, we should have upon our backs the bawling critics, as well as the grumbling Poles. He would also fill the *manifesto* with false quotations, for this is his habit ; but the
thing

thing we want is a medley of obscure passages, compiled and dragged from the cloudy regions of antiquity, and larded with the maxims of the *new philosophy*. The best service VOLTAIRE could render us would be by his pleasantries;—he might smooth, by some jokes in our favour, the stern and provoked aspect of those who are spectators of the strange work we are carrying on—for I am much of the opinion of the philosophical English nobleman,* who said, that *ridicule is the test of truth*, and that the cause is always triumphant in the opinion of the *sound* part of the public, which has the laughers on its side.

But VOLTAIRE begins now to excite the laugh but feebly—and the smile he still diffuses over the countenance is less the effect of his wit, than of our grateful remembrance of the laughter he formerly excited.† The man has outlived his influence, for he

* The very elegant earl of Shaftsbury, who never dreamt that his maxims would be so applied.

† It is proper to advertise the reader, that the royal interlocutor, who is now speaking, is one of the most *talkative* as well as most *knowing* princes of his time.

so unmercifully loads the press with the crudities of an exhausted genius, that his *present* productions are scarcely supported by any thing but his *former* reputation. We are tired with his jokes upon Jews, monks, superstition, persecution and providence, from their being so often repeated. Besides the coxcomb has made certain boasts of humanity and benevolence that may make him ashamed to justify us in this division of brother PONIATOWSKY's kingdom.

THE TWO QUEENS *together*.

Is then the crime of this division so horrible?

KING OF P - - S S - A.

YES and No—according to the point of view in which you see the object.—YES—if you consider it in relation to the *old notions*—No—if you see it thro' the telescope of the *new philosophy*.

THE TWO QUEENS.

We would be obliged to you for a more circumstantial explication of this matter.—
 'Tis a strange man ! [*aside.*]

KING OF P - - S S - A.

You seem to forget, ladies, what we are about,—we are about to take what does not belong to us—to take it by force under the form of justice, to procure in our favour the sentence of a pretended national assembly, surrounded with armed legions and threatened with the horrors of famine, imprisonment and death to influence their suffrage.—I have said already that our enterprize is of a nature entirely *new*; but as it is highly advantageous to us all, and as *utility* with me is the standard of *morality*, I am fully satisfied with what we are soon to execute. I own, indeed, that according to the *old notions*, our convention is unjust, violent, barbarous, and abominable, and it is not easy to obliterate and efface these *old notions* ;

tions; even *I* who have long got pretty well rid of them, find now and then some twitches of an irritable fibre on which my chaplain and my nurse made early impressions, which they called by the name of *conscience*,—but when I take a dose of the new *philosophy*, from the prescriptions of DAVID H—E, HELVETIUS, or DIDEROT, the spasm passes. Our project certainly is an intrepid insult upon all the prejudices of education, upon the *pretended* rights of humanity, upon the common sense and patience of mankind. Nothing, at first sight, appears more odd, nay, more shocking than to deprive a sovereign of his dominions, without any other pretext than the dubious expressions of some obsolete legendary parchments, and pretensions that have been cancelled by the most solemn, clear, and recent treaties.

This insult upon, (what fanatics call) heaven, upon the justice of the imaginary Being whom mortals continue more or less to respect, and upon the ancient and vulgar

gar

gar feelings of the human mind is so much the more striking, in that we, ourselves, *all three* have, but very lately declared, that we pretended no claim to possess, nor had any design to encroach upon the very smallest part of brother PONIATOWSKY'S territories.—I perceive that you both tremble at this state of the case—and I should tremble also, had I not got the better of the *old notions* by the help of the *new philosophy*.—It is an excellent thing, this new philosophy!—have you a just notion of it, ladies? 'Tis a pity we cannot employ in our manifesto its elegant and expressive terms; being confined to a stile of negociation, tedious scholastic and disgusting.

EMPERESS Q - - - N.

Really, Sire, I know almost nothing of this *new philosophy*. My *literati* are still attached to the philosophy of the XIVth century, remarkable by its having been the philosophy of saints, martyrs and monasteries, precious by its depth and difficult

culty and covered with a solemn and venerable gloom, that gives it a sacred authority in the eyes of the people. My son the Emp---r and also the Duke of T---a-ny learned the art of governing in the bosom of this philosophy, and were publicly examined before all the court and foreign ministers by the ghostly father Pagenstecker in *quiddities, qualities, quodlibets, ubiquity, verity, unity, and substantial forms*, and you now see the fruits of their happy education.

KING OF P - - S S - A.

Where?

Enter a Page of the back stairs.

PAGE.

Sire, there is a person who desires a moment's admittance to your majesty.

KING OF P - - S S - A.

Who is it? Is it the geographer with his new map?—I don't like that fellow,
he

he has such a squeamish conscience, that he is ever starting difficulties—and the puppy cannot be persuaded to consider himself only as *chorographer* and not as *theologist*.

P A G E.

No fire, it is not the geographer that waits without.—It is old EPHRAIM, the baron of Joppa, who desires the honour of speaking a few words to your majesty.

K I N G O F P - - S S - A.

With your leave, ladies,—Ephraim does not come for nothing,—money matters I suppose—and money is the finew of negotiation as well as of war.—As for you, sister of R-ff-a, you raise money as it were with a magick wand, no body knows how :—One would imagine that you had discovered the philosopher's stone.—But I must have recourse to expedients—Ephraim is my *philosopher's stone*, and certain it is that this excellent Israelite

has an admirable hand at *circumcising* difficulties and ducats.—Among other things he has contrived a method of making a dollar appear *double* when I pay it out, and only *single*, when I again receive it in payment.—He would be an excellent treasurer were he not now and then a little too scrupulous.—But he waits when dispatch is perhaps necessary.—Your leave, ladies.—I shall return in an instant.

DIALOGUE II.

The two Queens are the Interlocutors.

EMPERESS Q - - - N.

TIS an odd man,—What do you say of all this sifter?—You look so pensive—or rather your look has something not easy to interpret.—It is something between an expression of repentant vexation and the agitation of ambition, that has just conquered remorse, but has been ruffled in the combat.

EMPERESS OF R - S S - A.

And pray how does your pulse beat? do you see all this without either compunction or inquietude?

EMPERESS Q - - - N.

Nay prithee—answer first my question, and then I will answer yours.

EMPERESS OF R - S S - A.

Why to speak plainly, we both look like fools in the eyes of Europe,—as dupes led by the nose—and we can scarcely get rid of the imputation of imbecillity without incurring one of a heavier kind: we cannot, in a word, cease to be *ridiculous* without becoming *odious*. Fy—fy.

EMPERESS Q - - - N.

Is it possible ! sister,——as I live she blushes ! [*aside*] I thought she had long ago conquered this infirmity.

EMPERESS OF R - S S - A.

Understand me, sister, you blush at nothing—and I blush but at few things. I have got far enough in philosophy to have triumphed over *remorse*—but I have a passion for *glory*—and glory is not attainable without some *appearance of virtue* and still less without *consistency of conduct*.—I own to you my mind is not quite easy,—there is an inconsistency in my conduct, which, tho' it does not reach conscience,

is yet likely to affect my reputation.—
Only think of the figure I make at this present moment, compared with my professions and proceedings some years ago.

From a declared protectress of the Republick of Poland, from assuming the aspect of a tender friend animated by humanity to calm its internal agitations, to heal its divisions and to restore its prosperity, I am become one of the avowed vultures, that are preying upon its vitals.—I take my part of the spoil with a scandalous tranquillity:—This looks ill—nay really—I begin to feel now and then in spite of my philosophy some sharp stings of conscience.

EMPERESS Q - - - N.

But sister, what is this *new philosophy* that I hear such a fuss made about? If I am not misinformed it borders upon *atheism*.

EMPERESS OF R - S S - A.

Why,—yes—something in that way—aye—but atheism is an old word on which

the mob of believers have cast a sort of odium, tho' the thing it means shews a *large, liberal* and extensive way of thinking;—

EMPERESS Q - - - N.

Pray, sister, explain yourself—for you surprise me.

EMPERESS OF R - S S - A.

Why, sister, I am not yet adept enough to set this matter to you in a proper light; when *Diderot* arrives at Petersburg, I shall know more of this elegant subject.—

Our brother of Pr-ss-a, who is one of the boldest of the new philosophers in *theory*, and the most perfect of them all in *practice*, could explain the principles and maxims of this philosophy better than I can. He and Ephraim are, this very moment, employed in executing some of its most astonishing maxims.—It is only by the help of the new philosophy, seconded indeed by a high spirit and a military genius, that this man has acquired such rapid

rapid accessions of territory and grandeur and has rendered his name terrible, even to those powers that used formerly to make Europe tremble.

EMPERESS Q - - - N.

But, dear sister, you augment my curiosity without satisfying it—and you render me most impatient to know something of this *new philosophy* that produces such wonders.

EMPERESS OF R - S S - A.

Why, sister, I can give you some account of it from a letter of one of the ministers, whom I send into foreign countries to pick up for me, here and there, some scraps of *civilisation* and political œconomy. He tells me, that one of the leaders of this band of philosophers has written a book to prove, that *no* “human
“ action can be (properly speaking) *virtu-*
“ *ous* or *vitious* :—that a *vitious deed* and a
“ *broken leg* are equally the objects of *moral*
“ disapprobation,—that *piety* and *gratitude*
“ can

“ can have nothing in them *meritorious*,—
 “ that all *faith* is *folly*,—that Deity is a
 “ word without meaning,—that a future
 “ state is incapable of being proved,—and
 “ that *justice* is only an *artificial virtue*,
 “ which can have no existence but in a
 “ state of positive law and civil society
 “ and no motive but the fear of punish-
 “ ment.* ”——This last maxim answers
 peculiarly our present purpose ; for as so-
 vereign powers are, with respect to each
 other, in a *state of nature*, and are exempt
 from the ties and obligations of civil so-
 ciety,—and as we have *little* to expect
 from brother Poniatowski's friendship and
nothing to fear from his enmity, the *arti-*
ficial virtue of justice can have no place
 in our transactions with *him*, nor can it be
 violated by our partition—system.

EMPERESS Q - - - N.

I remember now,—yes, yes—I think I
 have heard of these tenets—but I recollect

* See the *Treatise on Human Nature* published in the
 year 1739 by *Noon*, and republished ; under another form
 in the *Philosophical Essays on the Human Understanding*.

also that they brought a poor fellow to the gallows, who, if he had been left to his *old* opinions, might have gone thro' life with decency and comfort.—The unhappy youth was secretary to *Baron Maurenbrecker*, and having often heard his master say at table, (after he had tossed off his tenth bumper of champaign) that there *was no Deity but Nature*, and that *she* was *blind, deaf and dumb*,—that the universe was a great aggregate of atoms and wheels within wheels moved and whirled about by the four almighty syllables of the word *necessity*—that justice and a judgment to come, where only phantoms instituted by politicians to keep the vulgar in awe, as a peasant puts a soldier's coat and a black wig upon a pole to keep the crows from his corn.—Having (I say) heard these things often repeated, and thinking he had dexterity enough to escape the eye of discovery and the hand of the executioner, he opened his master's scrutoire under the auspicious protection of the *new opinions*, and was hanged in consequence of the *old ones*.—

While he was lying in prison under the terrors of conscience and approaching death, he sent for the new gospels of DIDEROT, HELVETIUS and others, to comfort him in his distress,—but all the consolation he derived from them came to this : that “ *he ought to have looked about him—that now he must suffer like a hero, who despised this world and did not believe in ANOTHER, and that PERHAPS he would soon be annihilated.* ”—The word *perhaps* (for the new sages could not assure him of the thing) augmented the terrors of the poor wretch and he died in an unspeakable anguish.

EMPERESS OF R - S S - A.

That may be, sister,—but you know that whatever the vulgar may fear from the new philosophy, sovereigns have no such consequences to apprehend from it; as their power sets them equally above the tenour of the law and the terror of the gibbet. So that we may enjoy all its advantages without

without being subject to any of its inconveniences.

EMPERESS Q - - - N.

To be free with your majesty, I must tell you plainly that I abhor and detest this new philosophy ; for it not only attacks the doctrines of the bible, but O horror ! it even strikes at the belief of *purgatory*, the authority of *tradition*, and the infallible majesty of the *papal chair*. Nor do I think this philosophy at all necessary to our present purpose ; at least it is not necessary for *me*, since the Jesuits, where equity and justice embarrass, can calm conscience, just as well as your philosophers. And tho' this holy society should be suppressed by a wicked policy, I am resolved to keep still some of its worthy members in my secret service to direct my conscience. Their doctrine of *probability* seems to have, at least in morals, a great affinity with modern scepticism. I gave audience this morning to a reverend father, who told me (laying his venerable hand meekly upon

hi

his breast) that there was no question in theology or politicks, concerning which much might not be said on *both sides*, and that this gave conscience a full liberty of *chusing any side* ; adding that nothing but transubstantiation, the pope's infallibility and the divine origin of *Jesuitism* were excluded from this general maxim.—Now the application of this maxim is easy.—The *Heresy* of the Polish Dissidents, the more than dubious orthodoxy of the king of Poland, the misery of the people under his government, and the proximity of Cracow, &c. to my Austrian dominions, all these considerations give me a more than *probable* right to the territories, that are to fall to my share in the present partition.—

I might here add my ghostly *apostolick* title, which obliges me to convert or extirpate hereticks, which I cannot do effectually without laying my hands on the territory where they reside.

EMPERESS OF R - S S - A.

By some of these arguments you may lay a claim to my dominions ; but I shall take
care

care to render this neither *probable* nor *possible* for you.

EMPERESS Q - - - N.

Don't interrupt me—I was going to tell you the advantageous steps that I was encouraged by my *holy guides*, to take in consequence of this commodious doctrine of *probability*.—It was in consequence of its gracious indulgence, that I broke with the English, while the sense of their generous assistance and faithfull services was yet warm in my heart, or, at least alive in my conscience.—It is in consequence of this that I have now tricked, duped, cheated (as the vulgar call it) the French ;—because (to tell you the truth) I had a mind to quit a *falling house*, and could expect nothing to second my extensive views from a nation, with a childish old gentleman at its head, who spends his time in making blood-puddings,* while his doxies and ministers are rifling his coffers and rioting upon the blood and trea-

* This is well known to be a favourite occupation of his most c - - - ft - - n m - j - - - y.

fures of his people. What could I do with an ally who has neither money nor credit, who has scarcely a tolerable minister in his cabinet, and so few able officers in his army?

EMPERESS OF R - S S - A.

I suppose it was this that engaged you to make an alliance with the Turk—to promise him that you would drive *me* from the banks of the Danube, and then to break the treaty, after having received a part of the stipulated subsidy.*

EMPERESS Q - - - N.

I beg, madam, that this last article may be no longer the subject of our conversation at present—we are now good friends—our interests are the same; we fish together with the most pleasing success in the same troubled waters:—besides, I have something to communicate to you concerning this our triple alliance—but I see the king and his confessor approaching—they come this way—let us retire for a moment.—

* See the *Letters concerning the Present State of Poland*, Letter II. Page 20.

D I A L O G U E III.

The K I N G *and* E P H R A I M.

K I N G.

I Tell you Ephraim that I will have it so —I have ordered from Holland 400,000 ducats, which you must melt down and coin over again with such an alloy, as that we may gain 25 pence on each ducat. Write to count *M^{te} l^z Wbn*, and desire him (if his stock-jobbing stratagems don't occupy him too much) to procure for us guineas, which we will manage in the same way.— When he knows the use that is to be made of them, it will increase his zeal in the execution of this commission. I had lately a specimen of the talents of the count, when he packed up his goods and assumed the air of a recalled minister, that he might influence the stocks and fish in the troubled waters of change-alley :—he will do admirably

rably for a job of this nature.—There are, you know, Ephraim, (tho' you don't read the New Testament) certain *vessels* made for *honour*, and others for *dishonour*. There are *pudenda* in negociation, which give pleasure ; tho' it be both proper and usual to conceal them.

E P H R A I M.

But, sire, the gain your majesty proposes by this pecuniary operation is quite extravagant—I cannot for the honour of the synagogue be concerned in it—it is contrary to the *gemarrha*—nay, it is contrary to all law, human and divine.

K I N G.

Ephraim, thou art always talking about thy law—but as a christian king I am not under *thy* law, and as a philosophical one I am not under *any* law, but the great one of convenience and self-interest.

E P H R A I M.

Would to God, sire, that your majesty were king of the Jews ! you would make

an excellent Messiah to *our* mind, you would fulfill the true intention of ancient prophecy, by *binding the princes of the gentiles in chains and their nobles in fetters of iron.*—I really do not think that either *Barchocheba* or *Cromwell** were so admirably qualified for answering *our* ideas of the Messiah as your majesty.

K I N G.

Be that as it may, Ephraim, it is your business at present to execute *my* ideas, which are not to restore the kingdom to Israel, but to make use of an Israelite to fill my coffers. I therefore desire that you will have the ducats and dollars coined without delay. Then put on your black-velvet coat, your black tie-wigg, your yellow fattin waistcoat and your Bruffel's lace cravat and set out for Warsaw. From thence

* LETI says, in his *Life of Oliver Cromwell*, that the Jews, struck with the amazing successes of that enterprizing man, sent a commission to Huntingtonshire to examine his genealogy, and to enquire whether he might not have descended, one way or another, from the tribe of Judah.

you must distribute the ducats and dollars—and I will give you some companies of hussars to add vigour to their circulation.—I have ordered the noble palace of the bishop of Cujavia to be fitted out for your reception.—A Jew seated on the sofa of one of the most splendid ministers of the *Galilean*, will give some feeble consolation to the Jews, and will afford no small pleasure to many among the gentiles.—You may spit upon the silver crucifix, which is in the bishop's oratory, and afterwards convert it into dollars.—If the Poles at Warsaw endeavour to make use of you as the depository of their solicitations in favour of Dantzic, I will give you a secret commission for that purpose :—You may promise the fairest and most flattering things in my name—for you know this does not engage me to any thing. We negotiate at present upon a principle happily thus expressed by an English poet :

Oaths are but WORDS, and words but WIND,

Too silly implements to BIND.

EPHRAIM

E P H R A I M.

In truth, fire, thou almost persuadest me to become a *philosopher*.

K I N G.

Why, Ephraim, I don't know whether that might not be somewhat dangerous for *you* in the practical part of that character ;—for you are not beyond the reach of civil institutions and penal laws.—A sovereign may do with impunity, (and consequently has a right to do) things that would bring a subject to the gallows.—However, if you can keep clear of the halter, philosophy is a good thing. Now, Ephraim, let business be done with all possible expedition ;—I must return to the ladies.

D I A L O G U E IV.

*The two Empresses and the King of P--ss-a,
are again the Interlocutors.*

KING OF P--SS-A.

WELL, ladies, have you been thinking of a proper person to draw up our manifesto?

EMPRESS OF R-SS-A.

Your majesty, I should think, does not stand in need of any other pen than your own to explain our pretensions, and to justify our conduct.—You hold, fire, a distinguished place among royal authors.

KING OF P-SS--A.

Nay, madam, you are too polite—and I confess to you ingenuously that my talent at writing is greatly diminished since the departure of the WITS. I know not how
it

it was—they . . . they kept up in me by their conversation, and by other means, (that I need not mention) a spirit of eloquence and literature. I became, while they were with me (I know not well how) an historian, a poet and a philosopher ; but I find myself now flunk down to the size of an ordinary writer ; I have, indeed, a tolerable knowledge of the French language ; (for I hate my native tongue, and in languages, as well as with respect to kingdoms, I have a wonderful liking to what belongs to others) but nevertheless, my two last academical discourses upon *Self-Love*, the *Queen of Morals*, and the *Utility of Arts and Sciences*, set all the assembly asleep.

EMPERESS Q - - N.

Why, fire, that is exactly what we want. If by a manifesto, in the same narcotick spirit, you could set all the powers of Europe asleep, we might finish this partition-business without molestation or interruption.

Why really, madam, I think the powers of Europe sleep pretty soundly at this present moment; at least the most vigilant among them appear to be drowsy. One would think they had all taken opium—they don't even seem to have any mixture of inquietude or agitation in their slumber. Nay, that nation that formerly aimed at universal monarchy, that plagued Europe so long with the effects of its ambition, sees, without any visible emotion, our pretensions and our proceedings. That the *lady with the seven heads* should be a calm spectator of these proceedings is not at all surprizing; commerce is her business, and peace her rock of safety; that the *king of the isles* should stand aloof also is natural; his ships cannot sail into Poland, and shall he find either in the impotent and exhausted house of Bourbon, or in the fantastic Don of Madrid, allies that deserve the smallest degree of confidence? You see then, ladies, that all about us sleeps, and sleeps soundly.

EMPRESS OF R - SS - A.

So, indeed, it seems ; but the case may soon change ; for people don't sleep always, and the waking moment is sometimes a violent one ; the security of all the smaller powers of Europe is immediately endangered by our proceedings ; and by them, of consequence the peace, harmony, and mutual confidence of the great European republic are essentially affected. We overturn, in effect, the whole political system, and destroy that *ballance*, which, tho' treated by some as chimerical, is nevertheless founded on the wisest maxims of political prudence. I therefore fear the waking moment.

KING OF P - - S S - A.

Let us, therefore, seize time by the forelock and do our business quickly while they are asleep—that if they should awake they may find all things concluded, and return (if they please) to their slumber. We have already struck an important blow, and having taken possession of our neighbour's ter-

ritories, let us shew our pretensions by a manifesto.—I have told you already that this piece must be composed upon the principles of the *New Philosophy*, as this removes the difficulties which the established superstition lays in the way of boundless ambition.

EMPRESS OF R - S S - A.

You have not, however, abolished christianity in your dominions as you promised VOLTAIRE you would do.—And I am informed he frequently abuses your majesty for this breach of promise.

KING OF P - - S S - A.

No—I have not abolished it by a legal edict or by solemn proclamation, but I have withdrawn from it my protection, I have given every sort of encouragement to its enemies; I have attacked it in my writings:—I have covered its ministers, its doctrines and its precepts with contempt. I have suffered the external part of the edifice to remain, and it looks just like an old tottering
ing

ing ruin in a new formed landscape, that only serves to set off, by contrast, my happy improvements.

EMPERESS OF R - S S - A.

But, brother of P - - ff - a, when we have got rid of christianity, the *law of nature* is still in our way. For even VOLTAIRE talks of the beauty of virtue, the obligation of justice and the dignity and excellence of benevolence and humanity. He even seems to acknowledge a being to whom the actions of mortals are not indifferent.

KING OF P - - S S - A.

Why, so he does, madam, and that is the reason why he is not fit for composing our manifesto.—We must have a thorough paced sage, and VOLTAIRE is but a demi-philosopher—we must abolish the *ancient* law of nature and put a *new* one in its place.—For example—nature has so arranged things that the preservation of some beings is effected by the destruction of others.—Nature orders man to prey upon

the animals, the animal world to prey upon each other ; and we therefore *follow nature*, when we tear in pieces with our imperial and royal talons the dominions of the animals that live in our neighbourhood—or if you take the thing in another point of view, the result will be the same. Passions are (as the great philosopher* of the age has maintained) the springs of all great and heroic actions, and the incentives to all the excellent arts: *avarice* was the parent of navigation—*pride* raised the pyramids of Egypt—*love* animated the pencil of the first painter—the *desire of fame* carries the astronomer from Paris to Siberia or California to observe the passage of Venus, and *ambition* and *avarice* have led us to divide Poland.

KING OF P - L - - D. [*Undiscovered.*]

Good heaven ! what calamities may I not expect for myself and my people, from this mixture of *Machiavel's* head with *Attila's* heart ?

* See the *pious* and *goodly* work of Helvetius, entitled *l'Esprit*.

EMPERESS OF R - S S - A.

This really is carrying matters pretty far.—I think it almost justifies me in the method I took to become sole chief and *autocratrix*.—But I know not how,—as there was something in my former conduct, that gave me pain, so there is something in this that damps my pleasure.

EMPERESS Q - - - N.

I have also some uneasiness—why—consider, brother, that we cannot give our conduct any air of equity in the eyes of the world; since all our old titles and pretensions have been formally cancelled and expressly renounced by solemn treaties of subsequent and even recent date. It is but a few years (I had almost said months) that you renounced solemnly all pretension to the Polish territories; and sister and I have treated much in the same strain.

KING OF P - S S - A.

O ladies,—if such difficulties pass thro' your brains, no business can be done.

Have

Have I not told you in my *Memoirs of the House of Brandenburg*, that “politicians
 “have banished candour into the private
 “transactions of civil life, and consider
 “themselves as so far raised above the
 “laws they prescribe to others, that they
 “give themselves up, without restraint,
 “to the depravation of their hearts.”

These words, at the time I wrote them, were looked upon as a satire upon princes and their ministers; but they contained, in reality, the fundamental maxim by which I designed to direct my future conduct.—So, ladies, I will be bold to tell you, that *prescription* or long possession prove nothing against an *old claim*, provided we can support the *latter*; nor can an ancient right be cancelled by a subsequent treaty, provided we can violate the treaty with impunity.

EMPERESS Q - - - N.

But is not this going too far? for by this method of reasoning, I may take back
Silesia

Silesia whenever I please, notwithstanding the treaties that subsist between us.

K I N G O F P - S S - A.

No, madam, not whenever *you please*, but whenever *you can*.—That I allow—but I shall take care not to suffer by the application you may be tempted to make of my principles.—Now to let you see how a manifesto upon these principles will sound, I have ordered a *philosopher* of my academy to draw up a sketch of one.—I shall call him in, if you please, and I am desirous to hear it myself.—[*To a gentleman in waiting.*] Pray do—call in the philosopher.

Enter a P H I L O S O P H E R.

K I N G O F P - - S S - A.

Have you drawn up a sketch of the manifesto, *Mr. Struntenreitzer*?

P H I L O S O P H E R.

Yes, sire,—and I have drawn the principles from the purest sources.

KING OF P - - S S - A.

Read it then distinctly.

The PHILOSOPHER reads as follows.

“ Seeing and whereas the new light of
“ *Philosophy*, that has been bestowed by
“ CHANCE, the *wise Disposer* of atoms
“ and events, on this illustrious age, hath
“ made it appear to demonstration, that
“ *virtue* is the offspring of policy begot
“ upon superstition,—that there is no in-
“ trinsic difference between *just* and *unjust*,
“ the *former* being never a matter of
“ obligation, but when the *latter* is at-
“ tended with inconvenience—that moral
“ good consists only in profit and pleasure,
“ (*at this last word the two Empresses smiled,*
“ *and the King looked thoughtful*) and moral
“ evil in loss and pain,—that *humanity* is
“ the effect of *something milky* in the blood,
“ *moderation* the feeble tone of a *lax fibre*,
“ *generosity* the bait of artifice, or the fumes
“ of fanaticism, and that the scurvy code,
“ called the *Ten Commandments*, was only
designed

“ designed for a rude unpolished and un-
 “ philosophical people, who were incapable
 “ of setting off their depredations with any
 “ mixture of dignity and grandeur.

“ Be it therefore known to all whom it
 “ may concern, that I Fr-d---ck, by the
 “ victorious grace of the god Mars, (*the*
 “ *King called this expression pedantick*)
 “ possessor of more extensive territories
 “ than my ancestors ruled, and desirous
 “ of possessing still more, have entered
 “ into a convention with two ladies (KING
 “ *ASIDE, tho’ not over-fond of the sex*) to
 “ divide between us upon the principles
 “ of modern justice the territory of one
 “ of our next neighbours, for whom we
 “ all felt and expressed, tho’ in different
 “ ways, a cordial and true affection.

EMPERESS Q - - - N, *interrupting the*
Philosopher.

This is not a stile fitting for a manifesto
 —there are no law-terms in it—it does
 not please me, some how.

EMPRESS OF R - S S - A.

It looks liker an academical discourse, than a manifesto.—It certainly comes out of the school of Diderot.

KING OF P - - S S - A.

I don't like it much neither :—it is too metaphysical.—The general strain of it is, however, adapted to remove scruples.

Enter a second Page of the back-stairs.

P A G E.

Serjeant *Whiskerfeldt* is returned from his secret embassy to the magistrates of Dantzic, and desires an audience of your majesty.

THE TWO EMPRESSES.

Shall we retire ?

KING OF P - - S S - A.

By no means—I have nothing secret for my dear and valuable friends.—Besides, it may not be intirely unprofitable for you
to

to be a little farther acquainted with my manner of doing business. If your *two boys* were here, they might learn something ; but the *one* seems to be too fond of exercise ; for he is always running about in a chaise and pair in his own dominions or in those of other people ; and the *other*, on the contrary, is always sitting in the strangest inactivity, on the skirt of his immense territories.—I mean madam, those territories that may become his,—if he lives. (*Here the Emp--s bit her lips and turned pale for a moment.*)

DIALOGUE V.

THE SAME PERSONAGES.

SERGEANT*.

I Delivered your majesty's royal mandate to the council of Dantzic: they grumbled a good deal, most of them turned pale; three bit their lips in a manner that I did not much like; an old fellow of a burgomaster, had even the impudence to frown and sneer alternately, and perceiving that my coat was thread-bare and my spatterdashs patched, he looked at me, for some time, with a disdainful smile. He then asked me how long I had been a public minister, and of what rank and order? adding, that he hoped I was an ambassador *extraordinary* and not a *resident*.

* This personage had been a student at Halle, but was obliged to fly from thence for burglary and a rape.

KING

K I N G O F P - - S S - A.

The faucy fellow ! liberty and plenty have rendered these ware-house-grandeers impertinent.—Well ! we shall remove the cause of the disorder and then the effect will cease.—But I hope, *Whiskerfeldt*, that you maintained your representative character and my dignity on this occasion.

S E R J E A N T.

Yes an't please your majesty.—“ Fellow,
 “ (said I to the first magistrate) I am a
 “ minister plenipotentiary, tho' under the
 “ rose.” I then pulled out my horse-pistol to shew him my *credentials*, and I broke his jaw with the butt-end of it to convince him of my *full powers*. Upon this, the fathers assembled in council cried out, “ Long live F-d--ck the Solomon of
 “ the North ! It shall be as he requires,—
 “ our citizens shall take his new-coined
 “ ducats and thank him for what they lose
 “ —our ship-captains shall pay the new
 “ taxes—our suburbs shall be the honoured
 “ seat of his booted legislators, and (if his
 E “ royal

“ royal propensities had inclined that way)
 “ our wives and daughters should have
 “ been at his service.

[The Queens look at each other with much expression, and take out their snuff-boxes to conceal their embarrassment.]

K I N G O F P - - S S - A .

Ha—ha—ha—ha— *[To the Empress Q---n.]* The Serjeant has behaved with spirit.—This fellow may one day, command at *Olmütz*—I mean *Sweidnitz*, madam,—I beg pardon.—You see here, madam, business done by honest *Whiskerfeldt* with œconomy and effect.—When you negotiate in foreign countries, you send a prince of the empire, a count or a baron, with a golden key at his skirt and a ribband over his shoulder. Thus accoutred away he goes—hires a magnificent house—appears with a splendid equipage—loses your money and his own (if per chance he has any) at the gaming-table—gives balls and dinners, indeed, but perhaps neglects your business ;—Whereas you see here, in the
 example

example of Mr. *Whiskerfeldt*, an embassy of the most successful kind, that has not cost me above twenty-seven Polish florins, tobacco, and brandy included.

[Here the three crowned heads smile, but with different movements of the lips and jaw-bones.]

EMPERESS OF R - S S - A.

Your majesty, however, sends counts and barons for your ministers, as well as other crowned heads, and count M-lz--n shone among the courtiers at St. James's, as well as among stock-jobbers in the alley.

KING OF P - - S S - A.

O yes—I now and then send a count or a baron with a public character, but, with very few exceptions, this is only for form;—and then they must be satisfied with the honours of their rank, and furnish themselves both with the superfluous and the *necessary*; for I allow the most splendid of them little more than a captain's pay.—But my essential business is done by a peculiar

E 2

kind

kind of ministers, who have cat's eyes, see in the dark, sap under ground, and then spring the deep mine of negociation, when no body expected it. One of my ablest negociators in England was (if I mistake not) ^xa Swiss, who, after following unsuccessfully some lower trade, offered himself for a life-guard in the British service. His offer was rejected, not only as he wanted some inches of the measure required, and was unfortunately broader than he was long, but also on account of an inauspicious, dark and ignoble aspect, that affrighted or disgusted almost every body. Now I converted this man into a minister, and he served me so well in the porter-houses, cellars, coffee-houses and elsewhere, that I made him governor of Neuf-châtel, where he display'd the lines of his primitive condition and character.—All this however, is a digression from our present business—I shall dismiss this worthy minister—I have but a few questions more to ask him.—[*aside to the Serjeant.*] How does general Belling go on?

x M^r Michel

S E R J E A N T.

He goes through, fire, with the same facility that your majesty went through Saxony some years ago—oaths of allegiance, ancient immunities and privileges, sacred laws of property make him only smile, when they are pleaded as an objection to your majesty's demands—When the parents seeing their daughters exposed to the wanton violence of the soldiers, and the bread taken out of the mouths of their famished children, fill the air with the shrieks of anguish and despair, the general sends for his fifes and drums and drowns the concert.—Dantzic is now so surrounded with custom-houses and tax-gatherers, who are augmenting, by the great law of arms, your majesty's imposts, that, at this moment, two thirds of the inhabitants of the borders of the Weiffel in the neighbourhood of that city are officers of the revenue. In the space of fourteen days they have collected for your majesty 80,000 florins in the port of Dantzic, 500 dollars at Graudentz, and 3000 at Marienburg.—Things in short go

so successfully, that a swarm of French adventurers is arrived in New-Prussia, who offer millions for the honour of farming your majesty's revenues on the Weiffel.

[Here the two Empresses having overheard a part of this relation, turn up the white of their eyes to the cieling with a significant shrug.]

K I N G O F P - - S S - A.

And pray, Mr. *Whiskerfeldt*, how does the plan of population succeed?—for while my territories *increase*, my subjects *diminish*.

S E R J E A N T.

It succeeds, sire, as well as can be expected—only I think our men ravish rather too much.—*[Here the two Empresses squinted at each other, and called up a frown, for which the muscles of the two countenances were so little prepared that it might have almost passed for a smile.]* And I don't think the general seems aware, that this way of propagating the species, is as imperfect as it is uncivil; otherwise he would do more

to

to discountenance it.—A brother Serjeant of mine broke into the parson's house at ——— and deflowered his daughter amidst the cries of the poor fellow and his family—and when complaint was made to our worthy general, he answered coldly, *that the king must have soldiers and subjects, and that the friends of population had not always leisure and patience to wait for the reading of the Liturgy.* As however he looked upon the appetite of the Serjeant for this forbidden fruit, as somewhat too furious, he prescribed him a regimen of bread and water for four and twenty hours.

K I N G O F P - - S S - A.

I don't like these acts of violence, because they are ineffectual for the end proposed—the marriage-act is much better—How does it go on?

S E R J E A N T.

Perfectly well, an't please your majesty I met between Plockow and Marienburg forty waggons of marriageable girls, each

followed by the nuptial portion, that is required in your royal mandate—most of the girls looked sorrowful, as is usual when they are going to stand before the priest;—but the dragoons, who escorted them, comforted them with some fore-tastes of their approaching joys.

K I N G O F P - - S S - A.

Now, *Whiskerfeldt*, 'tis well—hold yourself ready—as it is very likely I shall soon have some misunderstanding with the towns of *Thorn* and *Hamburg*, and I like your way of doing business.—Tell Adjutant *Ben-tensweitzer*, that I have changed my intention with respect to his secret embassy to *Verfailles*—he is too good for that commission—I shall send my confectioner, or the dancing master of the court,

D I A L O G U E V.

Interlocutors, the King and the two Empresses.

K I N G O F P - - S S - A. [*To the Em-
press of R - s s - a.*

Y O U look thoughtful, madam,—
what's the matter?

E M P R E S S O F R - S S - A.

Nothing—

K I N G O F P - - S S - A.

Nay, surely something ruffles you.

E M P R E S S O F R - S S - A.

Why, I own to you I have some uneasy moments—not to mention the sharp and insulting things you said to me, unprovoked, but a moment ago.—I know not what it is—but I must confess that, at certain times, my heart rises against our proceedings, and there

there are moments in which I am tempted to fall back into the belief of such a thing as conscience.

K I N G O F P - - S S - A.

The woman raves—don't you know, madam, that conscience, as analysed by the sage, is nothing more than the paroxysm of a fever or the fear of a gibbet! I see however, by all these qualms, that, with all your boasts of freedom from prejudice, you are not got to that summit of philosophy, on which the daring and intrepid mind sits serene and unfeeling at the head of *right* and *wrong*, *just* and *unjust*, and bends them to its purposes.—I hope *Diderot* will render you more consistent—I hate *disbelieving* by halves.

E M P R E S S Q - - - N.

And I hate *believing* by halves.—[*aside*.
What a cursed heretic he is!

E M P R E S S O F R - S S - A.

Sublime Fred---k! it was but a transitory qualm, and now . . . hem . . . hem—it
is

is over.—I am not so weakly principled as you imagine.—And I think I have already given, in practice, more than one specimen of the vigour of my philosophy *. But I confess to you openly, that I can neither suppress nor modify a certain violent desire of fame—which—

K I N G O F P - - S S - A.

Why, madam, I sacrifice to that *Divinity* as well as you.—Was the trumpet of fame ever so loud as in my praise? Think of the immortal renown, that must cover the man who led the victorious P - - - s in the fields of *Molwitz*, *Prague*, *Rosbach* and *Lissa*.—Who wasted the fertile plains of Saxony, beat down its palaces about the ears of its princes, and reduced the powerful and opulent City of Dresden to a heap of ruins.—I need not enlarge—you know the events and have *felt* some of them.—It is enough to observe, that an Elector of B - - - - g, who stood the shock of three mighty empires, and came off victorious, must not make an indifferent figure in the annals of fame.

* See the History of R-ss-a since the Year 1761.

EMPERESS OF R - S S - A.

No, surely, an *indifferent* figure you will not make—you, are even beyond the man, who proposed to perpetuate his memory by laying in ashes the Temple of Diana, tho' there is something congenial in your pursuits of glory.—You have, indeed, the fame of talent, genius and vigour; but to speak frankly you are served without love, and you inspire fear without exciting veneration or respect.—For my part, I own to you, that this kind of fame is not that which flatters my taste.—I have still (you may call it weakness if you please) I have still a notion that the most agreeable accents of fame are those which express the esteem, excited by a happy mixture of *real* grandeur with *supposed* goodness. I think the reputation of clemency and benignity essential to the true enjoyment of fame.

KING OF P - S S - A.

Poh!—poh?—there again you have the woman! milky fame! French fame! Aye
—aye

—aye—Lewis the *well beloved*, ha! ha!
 —No, madam, if my genius did not
 spurn all models, mine should be that king
 of Epirus, (I think it was) who said, *let*
them HATE me, provided they FEAR me.
 This is nervous and manly.—I leave to
 Lewis, and those who are like him, the
 title of *well beloved*.

EMPERESS OF R - S S - A.

LEWIS *the well beloved* is indeed, a ridiculous title. It looks like an irony and yet would pass for serious. Nay, it is such a prostitution of applause as ceases to be ridiculous by being disgusting.—Nor has this title ever had the real sanction of fame.—It is an epithet hackneyed about in a frivolous court, and echoed by a swarm of famished authors and manufacturers of rhimes and epigrams.—But you must acknowledge, that the epithet of *Great* when joined to the name of HENRY *, excites those blended sentiments of love and admiration, that diffuse thro' the heart the most

* Henry IV. of France.

delicate pleasures of fame. The hero, whom the nations called *Henry the Great*, and whom his subjects called *our good Henry* was a true hero. This latter epithet sounds yet most agreeably to the ear; it makes a pleasing impression on the minds of men, and succeeding generations remember HENRY with cordial sentiments of complacency and respect, while a *Charles V.** great, as he may have been in the annals of ambition, is now beheld with indifference, if not with abhorrence.

EMPERESS Q - - - N.

Prithee, sister, be not so severe upon my respectable ancestor.—He was great in *faith* and *piety*, as well as in politicks and arms.—You forget that he retired to a monastery, and, having abdicated the vanities of the world cast an ardent eye to *eternal glory*, in comparison with which, all your pretended fame is nothing but froth and smoke.

* The Emperor Charles V.

KING OF P - S S - A.

Ha, ha, ha.

EMPERESS OF R - S S - A.

Eternal glory ! much good may it do him—I suppose you have the same object in view ; for you don't seem very eager about reputation here below, though, as it would seem, by some of your late secret negotiations that I am no stranger to, you are abundantly greedy of extensive property and dominion.

EMPERESS Q - - - N.

It is true, sister, in point of glory, my view is fixed on that which is future ;—but, I own to you, I have no inclination to abdicate this world, notwithstanding all my fondness for another. I have found out the method of serving *two masters*, of being heavenly-minded and earthly-minded at the same time,—of setting my affection on *things above* and on *things below*, and all this by some various readings that

Fath

Father *Busenbaum* *, has suggested to melt down certain passages of scripture, that seem to render contradictory the service of God and mammon.

K I N G O F P - S S - A.

Bravo, at this rate I may, myself, become a faint some day or other, since it costs so little mortification and self-denial.—I thought that to obtain *this same* celestial glory, a prince must love peace, keep armies only for the defence of his country, be superstitiously exact in the observance of oaths, promises and treaties, promote among his subjects religion, justice, order, industry, and plenty, renounce the pleasure of making war, as a *Dilettante*, who loves the art, or as an encroacher upon the pretended rights and property of his neighbours.

E M P R E S S Q - - - N.

No,—no,—all this is not necessary.—This is making the road to heaven strait

* A famous Jesuit.

and narrow indeed.—My method of arriving there is not so austere :—I believe in scripture, tradition, Pope and Jesuits, and, in order to take possession of the other world, I have had my mausoleum erected, my epitaph composed, my body represented in cold marble by my dear husband's side, my cabinet hung in fables, and rendered gloomy and awful by crucifixes and death's-heads, so that nothing is wanting to express mortification and to prepare me for the enjoyment of heaven, when I can enjoy the earth no longer.

KING OF P-S-S-A. [*aside.*]

Such silly women !

To the EMPRESS OF R-S-S-A.

I see we are not of the same opinion with respect to fame. Our sister of Hungary is in quest of *eternal glory*, your majesty is gaping after I know not what gew-gaw of *moral glory* ;—but what I fix in my eye is the glory of making Europe tremble.

F

E M-

EMPERESS OF R - S S - A.

It is certain that you and I set out upon different principles. Your great end is to be *feared*, mine is to be *loved* as well as feared.

KING OF P - - S S - A.

We all know *that*, madam.

EMPERESS OF R - S S - A.

I mean to be loved by the publick, to be *esteemed* and respected as well as dreaded; I am therefore anxious at present about the opinion of the world. I had made some progress in fame—I was looked upon as a declared patroness of the arts and sciences—I had acquired by my plan of legislation, a reputation of equity and wisdom, that effaced many little transgressions and covered *some great ones*—I set out, even in these affairs of Poland, upon honest principles—I sent thither a body of troops too small to support ambitious views, but sufficient to maintain the election

tion of a native, and to preserve unity and concord in the Diet. I designed to . . .

KING OF P - - S S - A.

I see, madam, the drift of your discourse, and I beg that we may not be troubled at present with discussions of this kind. You ask what the world will think of You—and I tell you they will think you silly, if, after having gone so far, you don't go still farther, proceed consistently and contribute with steadiness and vigour, to finish the work we have begun. You have already forfeited the bauble of reputation for generosity and integrity, but you have acquired the fame of enterprize and daring ambition, and if *now* you draw back, you will lose both and renew the fable of the *dog* and the *shadow*.

EMPRESS OF R - S S - A.

There is a tone of plainness in this manner of speaking that I don't relish—I told you that my intention was to promote

more unity and concord in the Diet of Poland :

K I N G O F P - - S S - A .

And so is mine, madam,—the question is only what is the most effectual method of making them agree. The only sure way to promote this laudable purpose is to follow the plan I have already sketched out to you. The essential parts of this plan are, to gain the leading men among the Polish princes, bishops and nobles, by love or money, to force the meeting of a national assembly under pain of confiscation and military execution—to put the deputies of this assembly in one uniform dress or livery to render them *ridiculous*, and to surround Warsaw with troops to render them *unanimous*. This, madam, is my method of proceeding—[*Here the Empress Q - - - n counted her beads, repeated several AVE MARIAS, and muttered something about Father Bussembaum*—as for you, madam, you may act as you please—I have taken measures for all possible events,

and

and I am prepared for every change that can proceed from female inconstancy and weakness.

EMPERESS OF R - S S - A.

Female inconstancy and weakness forsooth—*[She bites her lips]* these terms are insolent and your conduct begins to be overbearing—You sent your brother to my court to wheedle and sooth, and I see that he suspended his profound taciturnity, and put off his solemn air only to draw me into your net—You have entangled me and now you begin to insult me; you have drawn me into some of your most exceptionable measures—you have even seduced me to take your part against the oppressed city of Dantzic, in your ridiculous pretensions to the bottom of the sea, and the more I yield the more you grow overbearing—But I would have you to know, that the tone of authority and contempt you assume at present is not made for my spirit—I will not bear it:---(*Here the Imperial Fan was agitated with violence*

—*The King put his hand in his side pocket and took out his German flute,---while the Empress Q---n, not to lose time, read several pages in her Breviary and repeated four PATER NOSTERS) no I will not bear it,—am I in the seat of PETER the Great for nothing? And—a marquis of Br--d---g forsooth—a king of yesterday, shall he give law to me, who, by the extent of my genius and dominion ought to give law to Europe?----It is not to be borne.*

(The King plays a voluntary on his flute)
And, pray, what comparifon - - - - but I shall enter into no difcuffion here---You have felt more than once the weight of my arm and may feel it again.

(The king continues to play, but his countenance changes and his indifference becomes lefs natural and eafy)

And as to our conduct, thank Heaven ! it is very differently appreciated in the world. My feizure of Lithuania is a confequence of your taking poffeffion of Polish Pruffia. You are confidered as acting from the impulse

pulse of ambitious rapine, and I on the principle of self-defence.

KING OF P--SS-A. (*aside*)

The poor woman! how little does she perceive, that she and her sister of Hungary are, at this very moment, the laughter of Europe, which considers them as in leading-strings, and dangling in all their imperial trinkets after the man, whom, in disdain, she calls the marquis of Bran---b---g.

EMPERESS OF R--SS-A. (*continuing.*)

Besides my design is to render the Lithuanians happy and free, for I will,—yes I will,—I will—I will have the reputation of clemency—but your only view in all your proceedings is to exhaust, impoverish and oppress the new Prussians, that you may nourish that blazing and malignant *meteor*, under the fiery and sanguine aspect of which you have been terrifying your neighbours for many years past.

KING OF P - - S S - A.

Be not so warm, madam, and, above all things, let us not quarrel *before the time*—But pray, what do you mean by calling me a *meteor*?

EMPERESS OF R - S S - A.

I mean that with all the blaze of terror and victory, that has furrounded you and struck the multitude with wonder, you have hitherto presented to the view of the thinking part of mankind the aspect of a forced and factitious power with more splendor than consistence; your numerous armies and shining train of conquest amazed them indeed, but they looked upon these scenes as short and transitory, as you have hitherto had no visible ways and means of supporting these *phenomena* of grandeur.—Your plundering here and plundering there gave some splendid moments, but no solid or permanent state.

KING OF P - - S S - A.

Allowing this, madam, you will grant also that the meteor of B---d--b--g, is now
2
rising

rising to the dignity and splendor of a sun in the political firmament, and will perhaps turn some of his neighbours into *meteors*.

KING OF P-L--D. [*Undiscovered.*]

Alas ! alas ! it is I that am likely to be the first *meteor* !

EMPRESS OF R - SS - A.

You are, indeed, now acquiring consistence with a vengeance.

KING OF P - - SS - A.

And therefore it is better that we should not quarrel ; for you may want me before you are aware of it—Your fleets make but a pitiful figure in the Archipelago. Since the chance battle of loggerheads, that they fought at the beginning of the war, they have done nothing but plunder, and your armies are melting away on the banks of the Danube, without doing any thing that can determine the fate of the war.

Enter

*Enter a Geographer collared by Serjeant
Whiskerfeldt.*

S E R J E A N T.

Sire, this fellow, in his *New Map of Europe* refuses to place *Dantzic*, and *Elbing*, and *Thorn*, and *Posnania*, and *Warsaw*, and *Courland*, and *Hamburg*, and *Bremen*, and *Lubeck*, in the territory of NEW PRUSSIA.

T H E T W O E M P R E S S E S.

O lud, O lud—Why this is becoming a fun with a witness.

K I N G O F P - S S - - A.

You must think, ladies, that some months will pass before this map will be ready for the press, and, in that time, many and great changes may happen. If the Geographer adjusts his map to the present state of Europe, it may become as imperfect and inaccurate next year, as an almanack of the last century—Besides, there is nothing in this arrangement of matters that can give you much uneasiness, and it is
with

with other powers that I must settle that business——Our division of Poland is the great point, and we must instruct the Geographer on that head.

EMPERESS OF R - S S - A.

I will have all Lithuania and the navigation . . . and the tenths . . .

EMPERESS Q - - N.

And I will have Cracow and Czenstocau, and the saltworks of Wieliczka and Bochnia and Sambor.

EMPERESS OF R - S S - A.

And I will have alone the navigation of the Dwina and the Wilna.

EMPERESS Q - - - N.

And I will have——

EMPERESS OF R - S S - A.

And I will have

KING OF P - - S S - A.

Hey day ! patience, patience—why you go on, both of you, with such avidity, as if you had never possessed an inch of territory before this moment—You look like school-boys who are robbing an orchard—fie for shame—let there be a little more dignity in your proceedings—To settle this division it will be proper that we have a conference apart—Let the Geographer retire to another room.

DIALOGUE

D I A L O G U E VII.

(*The Three Crowned Heads resume the Conference.*)

KING OF P - - S S - A.

YOU see, ladies, that in this division it will be proper, that each should take the parts of Poland, that lie contiguous to *his* or *her* respective dominions. I therefore begin by laying my hand on Polish Prussia, Pomerelia, the two Banks of the Weiffel, eighty villages in the diocese of Cujavia, and the Palatinates of Posenania and Siradia, which formerly belonged to my *Silesian* ancestors. And after *thus* laying my hand I cast my eye upon . . . hem . . . but that need not be mentioned at present.

EMPERESS Q - - - N.

Lud, O lud, sister ! look at his eye how it stares and devours ! [*aside.*] Look well to Courland and Livonia.

K I N G

K I N G O F P - S S - A.

As for you, my good sister of R-ff-a, the north-east and fairest districts of Lithuania naturally fall to your share; while my pious sister of H--g--y, the friend of my bosom, [*Here something seemed to stick in his majesty's throat*] will turn with facility her devout propensities towards the Palatinate of Cracow, the salt-works of Wieliczka, Bochnia and Sambor. She will eye with pleasure the right border of the Weiffel from Silesia to Sendomir, and will see with delight the Bog and the Niefter, Pocutia, and Moldavia, forming the limits of her new and nobly acquired empire.

E M P R E S S O F R - S S - A.

Why, (if I may be so bold as to say it) you have not forgot yourself in this division.

K I N G O F P - - S S - A.

This, at least, was not my intention, nor is it indeed my custom.

EMPERESS

THE POLISH PARTITION. 77
 EMPRESS OF R - S S - A.

Polish P--ff-a surpasses greatly, in value, the territories allotted to my sister of H--g--y and me in this division. It is superior to them in fertility, population and the industry of its inhabitants—An acre of your land will produce more than three in the woods and marshes of Lithuania. After travelling 60 miles in the Palatinates of Cracow, Russia, Witebsk and Polock, you meet with scarcely more than three or four paltry towns, and these, for the most part, inhabited by Jews; whereas, in a like tract of ground, we find nine or ten flourishing towns (flourishing as *yet*) in Polish P--ff-a and inhabited by tradesmen and merchants in easy circumstances.

KING OF P - S S - A.

So much the better for me, madam,—
 Besides, I cannot produce an earthquake to displace countries, and *contiguity* is the most rational principle we can proceed upon—
 However, to indemnify your majesty, we may make amends for the defect of the
quality

quality by the increase of the *quantity*—I am willing to cede to you a portion of territory three times more extensive than that which I have taken to myself.

EMPERESS OF R - S S - A.

But is this an equivalent? extensive territories without inhabitants and hands to cultivate them, exhibit a wretched aspect every where but in a map.

KING OF P - S S - A.

Have a *little* patience, madam, in about twelve or thirteen centuries population in R-ss-a and Lithuania may increase—and as you are *fond of fame* and labour for posterity, this prospect, tho' somewhat distant, may satisfy that noble passion—As for me, who am principally solicitous about the present, and think *a bird in the hand worth two in the bush*—I am desirous of a portion, in which population, opulence, industry and commerce, afford present and immediate advantages—But have you not a vast quantity of wood in Lithuania?—Why, there
are

are forests of seventy miles in circumference in that district, if I am not misinformed ; for I have not, *as yet*, been there myself.

EMPERESS OF R - S S - A.

Yes, there are forests enough—but the finest trees of these forests are already cut down.

KING OF P - - S S - A.

Oh ! that's nothing—they will grow again in fifty or sixty years, and in the mean time you may gather the honey, which the bears have left.

EMPERESS OF R - S S - A.

They may laugh that win—I own to you joking on such a subject does not at all amuse me.

KING OF P - - S S - A.

Nay—but after all—your forests will certainly grow again, and the grandchildren of your great grand-children may build fleets on the Black and White Seas out of these forests, unless the

despair of equalling the *maritime glory* of your reign, should discourage their ambition in that way—Why, madam, you will be too powerful—you will destroy the ballance of Europe—look on the map, and see how formidably extensive your dominions are, as they stand at present, and then—if you add to these the Black-Sea, and the Mediterranean and the Sea of Afos, and the Sea of Marmora, and the Archipelago, and the Grecian Isles, and Natolia, and Syria, and Egypt

Enter a Messenger to the Empress of R-ſſ-a.

M E S S E N G E R.

Madam, I am sorry to wound your Imperial ear with such fatal tidings—but—but—Ali Bey is defeated and killed in Egypt, and the Russian auxiliaries cut in pieces.

Enter another Messenger.

S E C O N D M E S S E N G E R.

Madam—it grieves me to the heart—but—your fleet is dispersed in the Archipelago

lago and the Mediterranean, tho' neither by a storm nor by the enemy, and a deep lethargy has seized your admirals, which the physicians look upon as incurable—Gregg, alone, amidst the general slumber keeps half of an eye open. Count Or--ow has been employed these three months in forming the plan of an *equestrian* statue of your majesty in the character of *Amphitrite*; two of the sea-horses are finished—three of the tritons are ready, all to the trumpets—The whole is to be executed in marble of Paros.

Enter the Third Messenger.

Madam—affliction and horror almost take from me the power of speech—your grand army, has passed the Danube, has been repulsed and defeated by the Turks—made a fruitless attempt upon Silistria—has repassed the river and lost the flower of its commanders. Twenty of your best officers, with the valiant general Weissman, have perished in this fatal attempt.

EMPERESS OF R - S S - A.

In a violent fit of agitation, which she endeavours to conceal.

This is sudden and unexpected—will not this disconcert our plan?

KING OF P - - S S - A.

Not at all, madam.

EMPERESS Q - - - N.

Not in the least.

EMPERESS OF R - S S - A.

You don't consider that my army upon the Danube is small,—that above a third of it has perished—that the means of recruiting it are slow and difficult—that the Turk will be animated, by this prosperous moment, to redouble his efforts—and that all this requires an immediate support from my worthy and generous allies.

[Here the King and the Empress Q---n, having caught each other's eyes in a moment of mutual observation, look each downwards with an affectation of thoughtfulness.]

EMPERESS OF R - S S - A.

What are you both silent?

KING OF P - S S - A.

Hem—hem—why, madam, tho' I be your faithful ally, yet my position is not so favourable for an auxiliary, as that of our sister of H-n--y here, who lies upon the borders of the Ottoman, and who, besides her *disinterested* attachment to your majesty, is bound in prudence to set limits to the progress of the Turkish legions.

EMPERESS Q - - - N.

But while I waste my forces in battling with the Turks, what security can I have for the maintenance of my interests in Poland?

KING OF P - - S S - A.

Leave that to me, madam, and imitate your worthy son in the confidence he places in my integrity and friendship.

KING

K I N G O F P - - - - D. (*undiscovered.*)

Before this clue is unravelled, it will appear, perhaps, that I have not been the only dupe.

E M P R E S S O F R - S S - A.

I must retire for some moments to send orders to my yielding legions—I think the names of PETER and CATH--NE must inspire as much valour and resolution, as the standard of Mahomet. [*Exit.*

The King and the Empress Q-----n remain.

K I N G O F P - - S S - A.

To return to our present and most urgent business, how does my good sister of Hung--y like *her* portion in this division of our neighbour's territories?

E M P R E S S Q - - - N.

Why I cannot say overmuch—I was at first so much delighted and dazzled with the extent of territory, that fell to my lot in this partition, that I was not calm enough to reflect, how much my joy
would

would be abated, when I came to consider how far its solid advantages extended.

K I N G O F P - S S - A.

What's the matter?

E M P R E S S Q - - - N.

Why I am strangely pent up - - - you possess so totally the Banks of the Weiffel, that I cannot export the produce of my Polish territories, without their passing thro' the hands of your tax-gatherers and the inspection of your custom-houses, which consume a considerable part of my profits.

K I N G O F P - - S S - A.

I cannot help that.

E M P R E S S Q - - - N.

My salt-works will be also reduced to a third of their former produce by the sea-salt, with which you design to furnish the Lithuanians from the coasts of the Baltick.

K I N G O F P - - S S - A.

That you might have foreseen.

E M P R E S S Q - - - N.

Your new subjects in Polish Prussia and Pomerania, will be much more tractable and loyal than my Cracovians. The former (a few nobles excepted) are as good Germans as those of your ancient dominions—as they have almost the same manners, domestick customs, and municipal laws. But I shall scarcely ever be able to tame the proud and independant spirit of the Cracovian nobility, or make them forget their origin and the advantages enjoyed by their ancestors, who imposed upon their submissive vassals, the yoke that is to be laid on the necks of their *own* posterity.

Centuries may elapse before the Cracovians become even as tame, as the impatient Hungarians are at this day.

K I N G O F P - S S - A.

All this is true—it is a just and prudent estimate of things. Nay, (what is still worse)

worse) as a spirit of pride and independence is contagious—the Cracovians and Hungarians may nourish in each other the seeds and principles of rebellion.

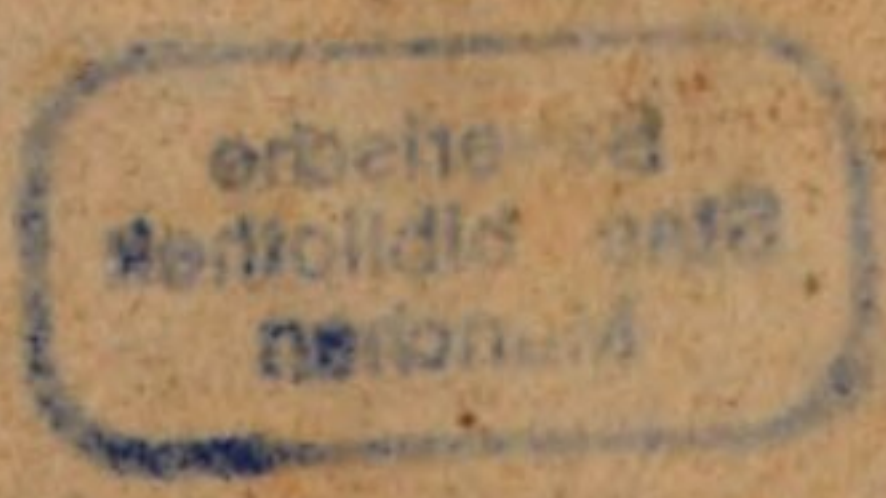
—But I cannot help that—Besides, it is now too late to start objections—things must remain as they are already settled, and the delegates of the grand confederacy are now assembled, *in their orange-coloured coats*, to ratify, with wry faces, our demands and pretensions.

T H E E N D.

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THE FIRST PART OF THE
work) as a spirit of pride and independence
is contagious—the Czarovitch and Hungary
have many more in each other the seeds
and principles of rebellion.
—But I cannot help that—Besides, it
is now too late to make objections—things
must remain as they are already settled,
and the delegates of the grand confederacy
are now assembled, in their every-day
clothes, to rally with faces, out de-
mands and presents.

THE END



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